



Working Paper #3: DRAFT Community Vision

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OVERVIEW

The Town of Buckeye General Plan is a statement of policy and an expression of the community's vision for the future. When completed, the plan will be a tool to help guide and shape the physical and socio-economic development of the planning area. The General Plan mission is to achieve a sustainable future for Buckeye. The General Plan will include:

- Community's statement of vision;
- 20-year plan for managing anticipated growth and development;
- Development goals and policies; and
- An implementation plan to realize the vision.

A number of public activities have been held to discuss issues and dreams for the future that have assisted in the drafting of the community vision. These events have included:

Three GPAC meetings
Community interviews (32 total)
Focus groups (8 total with 68 participants)
Visioning Charrette (5 events with over 200 participants)

A Vision Statement is defined as a broad statement of how the community views itself as it moves into the 21st century. A vision for the community is an ideal and unique image of the future. It incorporates a view of a future condition that would be better in some ways than what now exists. It is a dream rooted in reality. It is a vision that inspires, motivates, and transforms desire into action. A shared vision for the future is a powerful tool to motivate individuals and leaders to take control of the future.

The following DRAFT Community Vision is intended to begin the discussion with the community and GPAC. The vision statement will evolve as the community moves toward the development of land use/circulation alternative scenarios. The DRAFT Community Vision is presented to the GPAC for their review and comment.



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"Jump into the middle of things, get your hands dirty, fall flat on your face, and then reach for the stars."

- Joan L. Curcio -

Our Vision: One Town, One Vision!

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye will be recognized as a desirable place to live, work and play. It is a community that has successfully knitted together the many world-class and distinctly unique master-planned communities within which the majority of residents live. Residents of Buckeye are proud to call Buckeye their home. The community serves as a model for other Valley cities and fast-growing communities throughout the United States for its growth management and sustainability objectives as well as its success in the blending of mature neighborhoods with newer development patterns.

The Town of Buckeye has become the "Gateway to the Valley of the Sun" and as such welcomes visitors, new residents, and entrepreneurs. Buckeye has set the development quality standard high that all communities within the Valley strive to achieve. The Town is a "community of leaders" – locally, regionally, and statewide. Its citizens are empowered and its local leadership is in-step with staying true to the community vision.



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"You see things; and you say, "Why?" But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?"

- George Bernard Shaw -

Our Vision: Economic Sustainability

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye's economy is robust and a high percentage of local residents are able to work and live in close proximity. Buckeye is a major importer of employees to the quality jobs located within the community. The local economy is broad offering opportunities for large corporations as well as young entrepreneurs. The employment areas along the railroad, surrounding the airport, along I-10, and other major transportation corridors offer the full range of quality jobs from manufacturing to high technology. The Town of Buckeye has maintained areas and has created an atmosphere for future economic opportunities to occur over time because it recognizes that economic development is long-term and ever-changing.

Buckeye has partnered with major educational institutions and is acknowledged to be a "Center for Excellence" within a variety of specialized fields. It has become a major partner in the ever-expanding bio-sciences and technology industry. As a result of the Town's unique environment and forward-thinking, it has become a leader in promoting green building technology and renewable resources.

The Town of Buckeye has successfully transitioned from one that is dependent upon "new growth" revenues such as retail sales tax revenues and development fees, to a much more sustainable economy. The local government supports new business development that is compatible with the community's vision and facilitates business opportunities.



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"Every animal leaves traces of what it was; man alone leaves traces of what he created."

- Jacob Bronowski -

Our Vision: Protecting the Unique Environment

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye practices good stewardship of the management and relationship with its natural surroundings. From the White Tanks Mountains to the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers and to all the wash corridors that traverse the planning area, Buckeye has sensitively integrated the built environment with the natural. The planning area has preserved its diversity of native plants and animal species by accommodating wildlife corridors and natural connectivity across the landscape.

Buckeye understands the responsibility for careful management of the region's natural environment. It has been a leader in public/private partnerships to ensure connectivity, preserve environmentally-sensitive areas such as the mountain slopes and major washes, and implement "best practices" for ensuring a long-term water supply and quality. The planning area's air and water resources are vigorously protected, and noise and visual pollution minimized.

Through effective planning principles, Buckeye has reduced residents' reliance on the automobile by offering alternative modes. Effective connectivity within the planning area has resulted in a reduced need for pavement and more opportunities to enjoy nature.



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"We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing."

- R.D. Laing -

Our Vision: Improving Connectivity

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye is proud of its balanced and comprehensive circulation system that moves people and goods. The system weaves together the entire Buckeye planning area as well as connecting the community externally within the region, state, nationally, and internationally. Buckeye has taken advantage of its ideal location as the "Crossroads" of a variety of transportation modes. Buckeye has maximized its location of being within six hours of major international ports in California and Mexico and along the CANAMEX trade corridor to promote economic development. The Buckeye Valley Airport has expanded and has become a major West Valley airport providing private passenger and cargo air service.

The highway network that dissects and surrounds Buckeye can efficiently move goods and residents through the area. The highway network is supported by an internal comprehensive system of parkways and major arterials as well as bus rapid and local transit, light and commuter rail, recreational and commuter bike facilities, connected pedestrian facilities, tourist trolleys in downtown areas, and special needs transportation.